

The specification has been amended to correct a misspelling and insert a reference number. Figure 4 has been amended to insert a reference number. The proposed drawing correction has been made in red pencil.

Claims 1-20 are in the application. Claim 5 has been amended to correct a misspelling.

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Bentsen et al 6,372,895. Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, and 14-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious in view of Bentsen et al and Martin et al 4,573,796. Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious in view of Bentsen et al and Ross et al 5,877,863.

35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 Rejections:

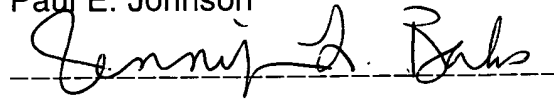
Attached hereto is an Affidavit under 37 CFR 1.131 antedating the cited Bentsen et al reference, along with supporting documentation. As the inventor conceived of the present invention prior to the earliest effective filing date of the cited reference, and diligently reduced it to practice starting before the effective filing date of the cited reference, the Bentsen et al patent is not prior art to the present application. The claims do not cover the same subject matter, as all of the Bentsen claims relate to specific fluorogenic compounds.

As all of the claims now in the application appear to be in condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests that the application be allowed and passed to issue as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Johnson

By

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer L. Bales", written over a horizontal dashed line.

Jennifer L. Bales

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Attachments:

- (1) Clean page 5 of specification
- (2) Clean page 8, including amended page 5
- (3) Proposed drawing change to Figure 4
- (4) Affidavit and supporting references
- (5) Replacement declaration

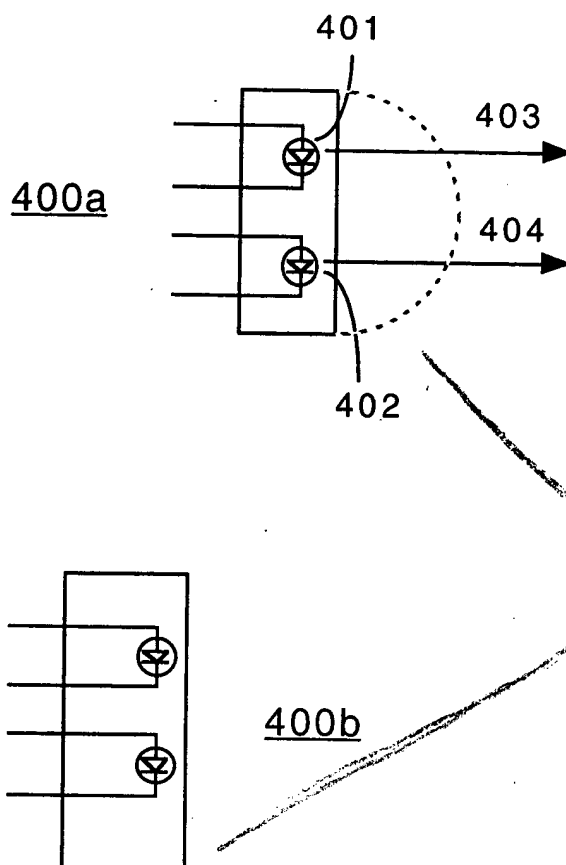


Figure 4

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Drawing Corrections
Approved
hcl
3/12/03